A Short Sketch of Imam Musa Kazim رضي الله عنه[1]

By HMT Bijli

Born on Tuesday in 129 A.H before the dawn, was Imam Musa al- Kazim رضي الله عنه to Bibi Hameeda and to the celebrated Imam of the Ahl al-Bait Imam Ja'far as-Sadiq S/O Imam Muhammad al-Baqir S/O Imam Ali Zain al-Abideen S/O Imam Hussain S/O Imam Ali ibn Abi Talib رضي الله عنهم اجمعين. His kunya is Abu Ibrahim and Kaazim is his Title. He is famous for his piety both inwardly and outwardly along with his deep insightful knowledge. Because of his Salih (good) actions, people used to address him as Abd us-Salih and because of his tolerance and patience, he was called al-Kazim. He used to generously contribute to the people who used to seek financial help from him. There are reports that Imam used to stay in prostration of Allah from right after the sunrise until before the zenith.

A popular ascetic, Shaqeeq Balkhi narrates that he once started for the Hajj Pilgrimage in 149 A.H and saw Imam Musa Kaazim all by himself in Qadisiya (present day Iraq). Upon seeing Imam Musa Kaazim, he thought that all these young sufis are destructive to the society, so he thought of abusing him. When he went closer to to the Imam, Imam Musa at once said "يا شقيق اجتنبوا كثيرا من الظن إن بعض الظن اثم" "Oh Shaqeeq, refrain from frequent assumption for few assumptions are sinful". Shaqeeq Balkhi wanted to seek forgiveness for his act, but to his surprise he could not see the Imam as he found him vanished from there. He later found the Imam praying while his body trembled as he kept repeating : "اني غفار لمن تاب وأمن وعمل صالحا ثم اهتدى" "And most surely I am most Forgiving to him who repents and believes and does good, then continues to follow the right direction."

Later Shaqeeq Balkhi reports to have seen him in Makkah, after which he went to Madina and settled there. Abbasid Caliph Muhammad Mahdi S/O Abu Ja'far Mansur had him summoned back to the capital city Baghdad and imprisoned him there. Later he had a vision of Master of Believers Ali bin Abi Talib رضي الله عنه saying " يا محمد فهل عسيتم إن توليتم أن تفسدوا في الأرض وتقطّعوا أرحامكم" "Oh Muhammad (Mahdi S/O Mansur), do you think think that if you have been given authority to do mischief on earth and cause hardship to your kin?". After seeing this, the Caliph immediately released Imam Musa Kaazim and sanctioned Three Thousand Dinar (Gold Coins) and let him go back to his relatives. Later when Harun Rashid became the caliph, he again summoned Imam Musa Kaazim back to Baghdad and imprisoned him. This time Harun Rashid had a vision[2] where he saw Imam Hussain رضي الله عنه holding a dagger in his hand and coming towards the Caliph warning him to let Musa S/O Ja'far free or else he would slit his throat. Upon seeing this, he too immediately let Imam Musa Kaazim free and gave Thirty Thousand Dinar (Gold Coins) as a tribute.

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[1] English Translation based on Gulzar-e-Sa'adat by Qazi Ubaidullah Sahib in 1290 A.H, Madrasa Muhammadi, Chennai.

[2] Reported by Shah Abdul Haqq Dehlawi in his Booklet about the vision of Imam Hussain رضي الله عنه whereas according to *Sawahiq al-Muhriqah,* he saw Imam Ali رضي الله عنه in the vision.

Later when Harun Rashid came for Hajj. People complained that many people give honourary tributes and gifts and Imam Musa Kazim had bought land with these donations and on this pretext, Caliph Harun had him arrested and passed away serving his sentence at the prison. It is said that Siddi S/O Shahiq poisoned him upon the instigation of Harun Rashid. After being ill for about three days, Imam Musa Kazim رضي الله عنه passed away on Friday, 5th Rajab 183 A.H at the age of 65.

He was laid to rest in western part of Baghdad in a mausoleum known as *Maqabir-e-Quraish*, which is now popular as *Kazimayn*. As per one report, he had around 37 kids and as per another, he had 60 children where twenty three were sons and thirty seven were daughters. Some names of the children of Imam Musa Kazim رضي الله عنه are as follows:

- Sons:
  Imam Ali Rida (His Spiritual Successor), Ahmed, Muhammad, Ibrahim, Akbar, Abbas, Qasim, Isma'eel, Ja'far, Harun, Hussain, Abdullah, Is'haq, Ubaydullah, Zaid, Hasan Kabir, Hasan Saghir, Fazal. Sulaiman, Aqeen, Qasim, Yahya, Dawud, Ibrahim Asghar, Ali, HAmzah.
- Daughters:
  Fathima Kubra, Ruqaiyya, Haleema, Umm Asmaa, Ruqaiyya Sughra, Umm Kulsoom, Umm Ja'far, Umm Lubaba, Zainab, Khadeeja, Aayisha, Aamina, Husna, Bareera, Aliyah, Maimunah, Umm Kulsoom Sughrah.

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